

BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY, 1948-49

The following statement shows the remarkable increase that has been made in the beekeeping industry during recent years, although the actual progress is not clearly shown because it is one of those industries where there are alternate good and bad seasons.

Year	Bee-keepers	Hives		Production		
		Pro-ductive	Unpro-ductive	Honey	Beeswax	Value
	No.	No.	No.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£
1934-35	(a)	67,712	13,334	4,155,450	45,515	50,500
1937-38	(a)	50,964	19,574	2,408,043	31,411	24,500
1938-39	(a)	42,288	12,443	2,940,877	40,257	32,500
1940-41	(a)	49,334	9,177	5,324,611	66,527	84,000
1944-45	(a)	57,715	11,558	4,652,002	57,924	128,000
1945-46	1,165	52,712	14,660	3,182,042	43,344	88,000
1946-47	1,099	69,015	10,752	8,672,753	105,788	247,000
1947-48	1,186	75,437	19,614	5,298,161	85,405	153,000
1948-49	1,120	93,634	15,738	10,906,372	140,384	313,000

(a) Not recorded

The number of beekeepers had not been recorded for earlier years but has been fairly constant during the past four years.

The number of hives had fallen considerably during the pre-war years but the decrease has since been much more than made up and the present number is a record.

Allowing for the alternating good and bad seasons, it can be said that the production of honey and beeswax is practically three times greater than it was 10 years ago. The 1948-49 honey production was over 2,000,000 lbs. greater than the previous record of 2 years earlier and more than twice the earlier record production in 1940-41. The 1948-49 production of honey and beeswax is valued at a little over £300,000 this also being a record. Both quantities and prices have increased.

The export year to 30th June does not coincide with the production year as some of the current year's production is not exported until after 30th June. Quantities exported overseas usually were small but have increased considerably in recent years. The totals for the last 3 years have been as follows:- 1946-47 3,832,384 lbs., 1947-48 3,159,142 lbs. and 1948-49 5,600,824 lbs. most of it being sent to the United Kingdom.

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